

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A piston-cylinder unit comprising a cylinder having an open end and
2 a piston rod movably inserted in said cylinder through said open end and having a distal
3 end projecting out of said cylinder, said distal end being insertable through a mounting
4 bearing for connecting the piston-cylinder unit to a support, and a bellows covering a
5 section of said piston rod projecting out of said cylinder for protecting said section of
6 said piston rod against at least one of dirt and damage, wherein a flow connection is
7 defined in said piston end in an area proximate said distal end of said piston rod, said
8 flow connection being in communication with an interior space defined in said bellows
9 and in communication with the atmosphere such that said flow connection allows a flow
10 of air between the atmosphere and said interior space when said interior space in said
11 bellows undergoes a change in volume in response to a relative movement between
12 said piston and cylinder.

1 2. The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said flow connection in
2 said free distal end of said piston rod comprises a transverse bore leading to the interior
3 space of said bellows and a longitudinal bore proceeding from said transverse bore and
4 opening out at the distal end of said piston rod.

1 3. The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, further comprising a mounting
2 bearing for mounting the piston cylinder unit to a vehicle body, said distal end area of

3 said piston rod being threadably inserted in said mounting bearing forming a screw joint,
4 said flow connection extending through said screw joint.

1 4. The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein at least one end of the
2 bellows is mounted to said piston cylinder unit by a positive connection.

1 5. The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein at least one end of the
2 bellows is mounted to said piston unit by a non-positive connection.

1 6. The piston-cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said piston-cylinder unit
2 is one of a hydraulic, hydropneumatic, or pneumatic piston-cylinder unit.

1 7. The piston cylinder unit of claim 1, wherein said piston-cylinder unit
2 is one of a vibration damper and a MacPherson strut for a motor vehicle.

1 8. The piston-cylinder unit of claim 7, further comprising a mounting
2 bearing for connecting the free distal end of said piston rod to a vehicle body, said free
3 distal end of said piston rod passing outward through said mounting bearing.